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38TH CONGRESS, 2d Session. | SENATE. | Ex. Doc. No. 2.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING,

In answer to a resolution of the Senate of the 6th instant, information in regard to aid furnished to the rebellion by British subjects.

DECEMBER 8, 1864.—Read, referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate of the United States:

In answer to the Senate's resolution of yesterday, requesting information in regard to aid furnished to the rebellion by British subjects, I transmit a report from the Secretary of State, and the documents by which it was accompanied.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

WASHINGTON, *December* 7, 1864.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 7, 1864.

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred the resolution of the Senate of yesterday, requesting the President, "if in his opinion not inconsistent with the public interest, to furnish the Senate any information in the Department of State concerning any proposition or overture recently made by British subjects in aid of the rebellion," has the honor to submit certain papers which furnish a part of the information called for. Other papers are now withheld, because they have been already prepared for submission to Congress together with the annual message of the President.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

To the PRESIDENT.

List of accompanying papers.

Mr. Parker to Mr. Seward, November 26, 1864.
Same to the same, November 26, 1864.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Parker, November 26, 1864.
Same to the same, November 26, 1864.
Mr. Adams to Mr. Seward, November 18, 1864, (with two enclosures.)
Mr. Seward to Mr. Adams, December 5, 1864.

Mr. Parker to Mr. Seward.

WASHINGTON, *November* 26, 1864.

HON. SIR: I beg to inform you that I have been deputed to convey to this country an address from the people of Great Britain and Ireland to the people of the United States of America. The address was presented to Governor Seymour, for him to present through the proper channel.

I was requested by him to convey it to the President of the United States as the authorized channel of communication between the people of other nations and the people of the United States of America.

May I, therefore, ask the honer of an opportunity for so doing?

I am, honorable sir, yours, most obediently,

JOSEPH PARKER.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.

Mr. Parker to Mr. Seward.

METROPOLITAN HOTEL,
Washington, D. C., November 26, 1864.

HON. SIR: In reply to your letter of to-day, permit me to state that the address which I have had the honor of being deputed by the party signing it to bring to this country, and containing the signatures of some three hundred and fifty thousand of my countrymen—from the peer to the artisan—is *not* from the government of Great Britain, nor from any political party. It is simply an expression of the earnest desire of the masses of the people of Great Britain to see peace again restored to this continent.

Waiting your favor, I am, hon. sir, yours, most obediently,

JOSEPH PARKER.

Hon. W. H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Parker.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 26, 1864.

SIR: Your letter of this date, stating that you are the bearer of an address from the people of Great Britain and Ireland to the people of the United States, has been received. Before answering the question which your letter contains, it is desirable to be further informed whether you have authority from the government of Great Britain and Ireland for the purpose referred to, and whether your mission has been made known to the diplomatic agent of that government accredited to the government of the United States?

I am, sir, your very obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

To JOSEPH PARKER,
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Parker.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 26, 1864.

SIR: The government of the United States cannot receive the address which was mentioned in your notes of this morning. Your request for an interview with the President to present the address is therefore declined.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOSEPH PARKER, Esq.,
Metropolitan Hotel.

Mr. Adams to Mr. Seward.

No. 817.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
London, November 18, 1864.

SIR: I have received from Lord Wharncliffe, the chairman of the British association organized to give aid and comfort to the rebel cause, a note, a copy of which is transmitted herewith.

I append a copy of my reply.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD.
Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

Lord Wharncliffe to Mr. Adams.

WORTLEY HALL, *Sheffield, November* 12, 1864.

YOUR EXCELLENCY: A bazaar has been held in St. George's Hall, Liverpool, to provide a fund for the relief of southern prisoners of war. It has produced a clear sum of about £17,000. In preference to any attempt to reach the intended object by circuitous means, a committee of English gentlemen has been formed to address you on the subject.

As chairman of this committee I venture to ask your excellency to request the permission of your government that an accredited agent may be sent out to visit the military prisons within the northern States, and minister to the comfort of those for whom this fund is intended, under such supervision as your government may direct.

Permit me to state that no political end is aimed at by this movement. It has received support from many who were opposed to the political action of the south. Nor is it intended to impute that the confederate prisoners are denied such attentions as the ordinary rules enjoin. But these rules are narrow and stern. Winter is at hand, and the clothing which may satisfy the rules of war will not protect the natives of a warm climate from the severe cold of the north.

Sir, the issue of this great contest will not be determined by individual suffering, be it greater or less; and you, whose family name is interwoven with American history, cannot view with indifference the suffering of American citizens, whatever their state or their opinions.

On more than one occasion aid has been proffered by the people of one coun-

try to special classes, under great affliction, in another. May it not be permitted to us to follow these examples, especially when those we desire to solace are beyond the reach of their immediate kinsmen? I trust these precedents, and the voice of humanity, may plead with your excellency, and induce you to prefer to the government of the United States the request which I have the honor to submit.

I am, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

WHARNCLIFFE.

His Excellency Hon. C. F. ADAMS.

Mr. Adams to Lord Wharncliffe.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
London, November 18, 1864.

MY LORD: I have the honor to acknowledge the reception of your letter of the 12th instant, asking me to submit to the consideration of my government a request of certain English gentlemen, made through your lordship, to send out an accredited agent to visit the military prisoners held by the United States, and afford them such aid, additional to that extended by the ordinary rules of war, as may be provided by the fund which has been raised here for the purpose.

I am sure that it has never been the desire of my government to treat with unnecessary or vindictive severity any of the misguided individuals, parties in this deplorable rebellion, who have fallen into their hands in the regular course of war. I should greatly rejoice were the effects of your sympathy extended to the ministering to the mental ailment not less than the bodily sufferings of these unfortunate persons, thus contributing to put an end to a struggle which otherwise is too likely to be only procrastinated by your labors.

Be that as it may, I shall be happy to promote any humane endeavor to alleviate the horrors of this strife, and in that sense shall very cheerfully comply with your lordship's desire so far as to transmit, by the earliest opportunity, to my government a copy of the application which has been addressed to me.

I beg your lordship to receive the assurance of my distinguished consideration.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

LORD WHARNCLIFFE, *&c.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Adams.

No 173.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 5, 1864.

SIR: I have received your despatch of the 18th of November, No. 807, together with the papers therein mentioned, namely, a copy of a letter which was addressed to you on the 12th of November last by Lord Wharncliffe, and a copy of your answer to that letter.

Your proceeding in the matter is approved. You will now inform Lord Wharncliffe that permission for an agent of the committee described by him to visit the insurgents detained in military prisons of the United States, and to distribute among them seventeen thousand pounds of British gold, is disallowed. Here it is expected that your correspondence with Lord Wharncliffe will end.

That correspondence will necessarily become public. On reading it the American people will be well aware that, while the United States have ample means for the support of prisoners, as well as for every other exigency of the war in which they are engaged, the insurgents, who have blindly rushed into that condition, are suffering no privations that appeal for relief to charity either at home or abroad.

The American people will be likely also to reflect that the sum thus insidiously tendered in the name of humanity constitutes no large portion of the profits which its contributors may be justly supposed to have derived from the insurgents by exchanging with them arms and munitions of war for the coveted productions of immoral and enervating slave labor. Nor will any portion of the American people be disposed to regard the sum thus ostentatiously offered for the relief of captured insurgents as a too generous equivalent for the devastation and desolation which a civil war, promoted and protracted by British subjects, has spread throughout States which before were eminently prosperous and happy.

Finally, in view of this last officious intervention in our domestic affairs, the American people can hardly fail to recall the warning of the father of our country, directed against two great and intimately connected public dangers, namely, sectional faction and foreign intrigue. I do not think that the insurgents have become debased, although they have sadly wandered from the ways of loyalty and patriotism. I think that, in common with all our countrymen, they will rejoice in being saved by their considerate and loyal government from the grave insult which Lord Wharncliffe, and his associates in their zeal for the overthrow of the United States, have prepared for the victims of this unnecessary, unnatural, and hopeless rebellion.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, Esq., *&c.*, *&c.*, *&c.*

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